**USING SKYPE**

With the use of Skype, teachers may be able to reach a whole new level of knowledge. Can you imagine; instantly you could be text chatting with a famous author who is living in Europe for a paper that the students are working on. Or you could be on the other end of a video call to a famous archeologist who is working on his next project in Africa for a history project.

**Skype in School**

Skype is great for all teachers.  A teacher could utilize Skype in instances of distance learning or cultural / language learning.  For instance, a teacher could teach students geographically separated by lecturing through Skype on the computer while the students sit in their homes anywhere in the world.  Calls concerning questions about the lecture would be free of charge between Skype users.  Another example might include a Spanish teacher who has their students interface with students from a Spanish speaking country in order to explore and learn about culture and language, benefiting students of both parties.  Since Skype is available in 28 different languages, students can use it to communicate with other students across the world to learn their language and culture.

**Guest Speakers**

Teachers, like Travis Weller, are using Skype to invite guest speakers into their classroom. This is an effective and cost efficient way for schools to provide an enhanced learning experience for their students. He invited three accomplished composers to speak to his students. Since the speakers all had Skype, this cost him nothing. They were also able to do a video session, in which the guest speaker  was projected from an LCD projector

## Conduct read-alouds:

## One important way to inspire children to read is by reading aloud to them. Schools can arrange to have an author read a story over Skype so that the entire class can enjoy a favorite book and then ask questions for an author study. Other remote readers might be local business owners, elected officials, athletes, or other local leaders. Some local theater groups get involved in literacy education by offering read-alouds in classrooms. They can expand their service by adding a Skype call to the classroom read-aloud. It would be like the old radio shows that used to broadcast to the world while performing in front of a live audience. Read more: <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/using-skype-at-school.html#ixzz1NChaRT6E>

**There are many reasons for using Skype in education including:**

1. **Virtual field trips**: trips that are not possible due to financial reasons or distance can still be taken using Skype to transport students to another country or area. Collaborate with classrooms, businesses and more in multi-disciplinary projects. Explore a volcano, rainforest, or history museum in virtual fieldtrips with experts in the field or even share your field trip experiences with others.

* **Foreign language learning**: Skype can be used to set up short communication sessions with native speakers as listening to and speaking a foreign language is essential if students want to improve [listening skills](http://www.brighthub.com/education/languages/articles/73924.aspx) and oral communication
* **Interviewing**: connecting with and speaking to an author or celebrity can bring classroom theory alive and make it real for students
* **Homework help or extra lessons**: teachers can offer help with homework, long-term projects or give extra lessons to students who are lagging through Skype
* **Guest appearances**: guest teachers or experts on a subject can teach students through Skype or give an explanation directly from their work environment. Invite a guest lecturer from leading educators and experts from anywhere in the world.
* **Illness**: students who are hospitalized or who suffer from long-term illnesses and are schooled at home can also benefit by being included in lessons through the Skype platform
* **Broadcast a performance or project** to parents and families unable to make it to school.
* **Access and share** professional development opportunities with educators on the go.
* **Collaborate with innovative** educators to plan units, lessons, and more

**http://blog.learningtoday.com/blog/bid/41726/10-Ways-to-Use-Skype-in-the-Classroom?source=Blog\_Email\_[10+Ways+to+Use+Skype]**

#### ****5 Skype Companion Tools****

To get the most out of Skype, you should consider utilizing other web 3.0 and social networking sites such as

* [Web 2.0 Tools for Class Projects](http://blog.learningtoday.com/blog/bid/30555/Collaborate-Create-and-Collect-Web-2-0-Tools-for-Class-Projects) - such as Twiddla in order to brainstorm, collaborate, and share ideas in real time.
* [Google Docs](http://blog.learningtoday.com/blog/bid/36426/Google-Docs-in-the-Classroom-Student-Teacher-Tools) - allows participants to share and edit documents.
* [Flickr](http://www.flickr.com/) - to share photos and enhance the feeling of learning together across a distance.
* [Blogs](http://blog.learningtoday.com/blog/bid/25265/Elementary-Students-Next-Generation-Bloggers) - to reflect and share learning.
* [Twitter](http://blog.learningtoday.com/blog/bid/28006/Top-5-Ways-to-Use-Twitter-in-the-Classroom) - as a backchannel during interviews, lectures, etc and as a way to continue the conversation throughout the school year.

#### ****3 Ways to Connect with Others Using Skype****

#### Online Skype Communities

* [ePals Global Community](http://www.epals.com/) offers a free 30 day trial. Sign up to connect with other classrooms using Skype.
* [Skype in the Classroom Ning](http://maculspace.ning.com/group/skypeintheclassroom" \t "_blank" \o "Skype      in the Classroom Ning) is for teaches interested in using Skype to connect with other teachers for idea sharing and classroom video conferencing.
* [The Mixxer](http://www.language-exchanges.org/) is a free educational community for language exchanges via Skype.
* [Meet the Author Network](http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com/) connects you with numerous authors willing to enter your library or classroom for 10 – 15 minute skyp sessions for free. You can also set up longer interviews for a fee.

#### Global Skype Projects

* [Global School Network](http://www.globalschoolnet.org/) engages classrooms worldwide in meaningful project-based learning exchanges to develop science, math, and literacy skills and foster collaboration, global citizenship, and multicultural understandings.
* [Taking it Global](http://www.tigweb.org/) is an online community of global educators with the goal of making a difference in the world.
* [Around the World with 80 Schools](http://langwitches.org/blog/2009/01/03/around-the-world-with-80-schools/) introduced on the Langwitches blog challenges teachers to connect with 80 different schools via skype in order to circle the globe once.

#### Skype in Education Directories

Connect with other educator’s looking for video conferencing classroom partnerships at these directories. Did I miss one? Please add it in comments. Thanks!

* [Skype in Schools Directory](http://skypeinschools.pbworks.com/)
* [Eduskypers Phonebook](http://skypeintheclassroom.wordpress.com/2008/10/31/lets-build-a-community/#comments)

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